

Religious Bulletin
October 29, 1926

Coming Events.

- Tomorrow - 6:30 Mass in the church for Brownson, Carroll and Lyons Halls. Remember the team; don't let the boys get hurt. No abstinence for the vigil tomorrow.
- Sunday - Feast of Christ, the King. Solemn Mass at 8:30; other Masses as usual. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during and after Mass; reading of the Act of Consecration during Benediction, at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday - Feast of All Saints. Masses at school as on Sunday. Off-campus students listen for announcements at Mass Sunday regarding parish Masses.
- Tuesday - All Souls Day. Try to hear three Masses.

What's Become of the Day Dogs?

There are 624 Catholic students of the University residing off campus. They have had various reasons for choosing Notre Dame as their Alma Mater. Some have come here because their parents would not permit them to go elsewhere; some came here on the word of other students that Notre Dame is the one best bet in the way of a he-man school; some came to get away from co-eds; some came because they saw some alumnus who fulfilled their ideal of a real man, and gave the school the credit for turning out a good product; a few came because they were pretty good in athletics in high school and wanted the prestige of a Notre Dame monogram. Most of them came because they wanted a Catholic education and thought this about the best place to get one.

These are not wild guesses; they are the statements of the students themselves, revealed year after year in four religious surveys. Each time that the question was asked, more than half of the students replied that they came here for religious training.

Now just how much are they getting? The Notre Dame system is quite liberal in this regard, especially with respect to the off-campus students. There is a pittance of religious instruction, an hour or two a week. About one-third of the instructors are religious -- and a large number of students may go through a year with no religious instructor except the religion professor. They have the obligation of Sunday Mass, without the possibility of so close a check as the folks at home can keep on the fulfillment of that obligation.

For the rest, they are left largely to themselves to choose what they wish, although they are offered a very wide field for religious development. Nowhere else in the country -- or in the world, for that matter -- will they find an environment in which more than half of their companions will receive Holy Communion every day of their own accord, while approximately one-third of them attend Mass daily. Nowhere will they find a greater opportunity to read good Catholic literature, to learn more about God, to sound the depths of their religion and find what it can do for them. No other school in the country offers more facilities for the reception of the Sacraments. No school holds up to them higher Christian ideals; none can offer them better companions.

While the off-campus students are deprived, most of them through no fault of their own, of the intimate campus life that makes sound and strong development easy, most of them might do much more than they are doing to get what they came here for. An average of fifty students a day at Holy Communion is a mighty poor showing: for one student who comes, eleven and a half stay away. If Our Blessed Lord thought enough of us to come down on this earth and live a life of poverty and humiliation, of suffering and degradation, we are pretty poor sports if we cannot spare him fifteen minutes of the twenty-four hours to tell Him that we love Him. If He thinks enough of us to remain humble and obscure, neglected, forgotten, annihilated, in the tabernacle, can't we spare Him a genuflection and a visit now and again?

The off-campus students this year are not using their heads. They are paying for something and not taking the trouble to get it -- a Catholic education.